[Mr. C. P Kochukunju Pillai.]

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The matter is under correspondence with the Madras Government.

Improvement of Means of Communication in Northern Taluks.

225. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that facilities of communication in the amalgamated taluks of Alangad and Parur are extremely scanty; and

(*b*) whether they will direct the Public Works Department to see that greater facilities for communication are provided in their programme of work this year in the Alwaye Division?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government are doing the needful. An additional grant of Rs. 12,250 has already been sanctioned for works in the Alwaye Division during 1099 (*vide* page 469 of the Official Report of the Legislative Council Proceedings, First Session, 1099—Vol. IV.—No. 6).

Timber Sales.

226. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the quantity of timber available at present for sale in the several Government depôts;

(*b*) the results of the efforts put forth by the Special Utilisation Officer deputed to find markets for the timber and other forest produce of the State;

(*c*) whether timber is sold to the contractors engaged by the Government to construct buildings, etc.; and

(*d*) whether it is not possible to compel all such contractors to purchase timber from the Government?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Royalties 1,94,592 c. ft.
Junglewood 1,26,880 c. ft.

(*b*) Owing to extreme dullness in the timber market, the efforts of the Utilisation Officer to find out markets for timber outside the State have not so far proved satisfactory.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) Such an order was passed in April 1921. The Chief Engineer has moved for the abrogation of this order. The matter is under examination by the Government.

Recruitment to the Superior Grade.

227. MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

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(*a*) whether a record is maintained in the Huzur Office to register the names of applicants for appointments to the superior grade in the several departments of the State ;

(*b*) whether there is any rule requiring heads of departments to forward to the Huzur Office periodical lists of such applicants ; and

(*c*) whether the Government scrutinise the selections for appointments made by heads of departments from those lists ?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) This does not arise in view of the answers to parts (*a*) and (*b*)

Timber Supply Contractors.

228. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(1) whether there is no rule that timber supply contractors or their relatives should not deal in timber ; and

(2) whether most of the contractors for the extraction of timber or their near relatives are not also dealers in timber ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) There is no rule to this effect, but when a supply contract is given to anyone, provision is made in the agreement that he or any undivided member of his joint family should not trade in timber during the currency of that contract.

(2) The answer is in the negative.

Abandoned Forest Roads.

229. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are any forest roads once constructed at great cost, but now lying practically abandoned, and in case there are such roads, whether they will give the length and location of such roads and the reasons for so abandoning them ?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : It is reported that no forest roads opened at great cost are now lying abandoned.

Survey Plans of Reserve Forests.

230. MR. A. GOVINDA MENON (*Alangad* cum *Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(1) whether plans have been prepared by competent survey authorities for any demarcated reserves in the State ;

(2) whether, in case such plans exist, they are available for sale to the public ;

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